

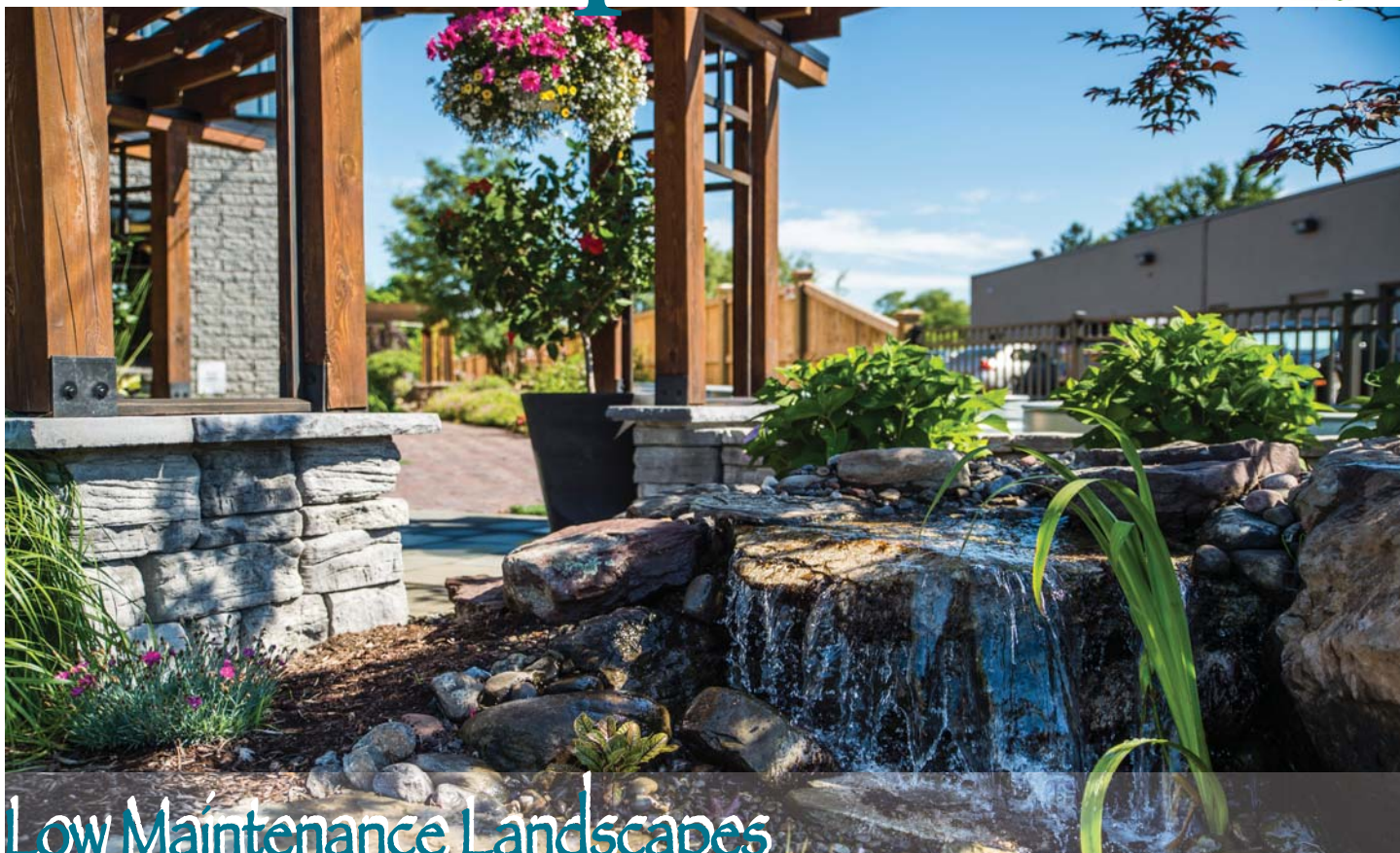
SPRING 2018 ISSUE

A PUBLICATION OF

# GroScapes

  
**LANDMASTERS**  
Landscape Design & Construction

**& The Pond & Rock Shop**  

## Low Maintenance Landscapes

by Chuck Longyear

When asking homeowners what elements they would like to see in their landscape design, the number one request is "low maintenance." Although, there are challenges that arise for that request being in the industry now for almost 30 years, I have developed a list that I feel will help with your landscape, whether it be a new installation or working with your existing landscape.

1. If you are building or remodeling a deck I would strongly recommend composite decking as the surface. Composite decking is about 3x the cost of wood but believe me it will save a lot of time and money over the years. If I had to say out of everything mentioned, this would be number one on the list. Of course, you can also consider using pavers or stone on the deck using the Silca system that we have done several projects with over the years.
2. Adding native plants to your landscape. Going native generally requires less maintenance in watering and pruning. For a list of native plants visit Habitat Gardening in Central New York's website: [www.hgcny.org](http://www.hgcny.org)
3. Use stone or concrete curbing for your bed edges. Another time-consuming chore in the spring is edging.
4. If you are thinking of installing a pond, but don't want the maintenance associated with fish, consider a pond less water feature.

5. Change your mulch out from bark to stone. You don't have to do it all but look around and see where you are spending a lot of time and money every spring installing mulch. There are many color and texture choices for bulk stone. Install it once and you are done.

6. Switch your low voltage lights from halogen bulbs to LED. LED last longer so you will not have to go out and change bulbs every other year. Also, the new transformers are app driven so you can adjust the timer right from your phone.

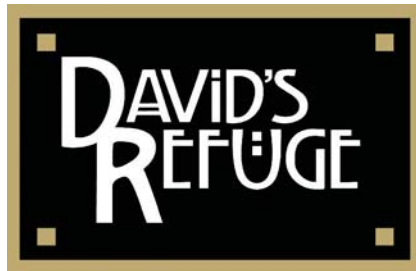
7. For pond customers, new this year for us are the Aquascape Automatic Dosing System for pond additives. Eliminating the guesswork and worry of missing doses. Read more about the Automatic Dosing System inside.

8. Fire Pits are one of the most highly requested items in a landscape. Although natural wood burning fire pits are the most appealing you will get tired carrying the wood and having to add it to the fire. Fire pits are more apt to get used if it's gas. Gas has really changed over the past couple of years because of enhancements with the burners. The Warming Trends Crossfire burners dance like real flames and by adding a nice set of logs they really look great with zero maintenance. Visit our retail store to see the Crossfire burner in action.

Considering how short our season in Central New York is, we hope these tips will help you to enjoy your backyard!

## What's NEW for 2018

We will be offering an expanded line of **Atlantic Water Gardens** pond pumps including Direct Drive pumps, skimmers and skimmer lids. We are excited to be adding to our already expansive line of Atlantic Water Garden Products.



**Our Mission** is to provide respite, resources and support for parents and guardians of children with special needs or life threatening medical conditions where they will be refreshed, restored, and renewed in their role as caregivers.

The founders of David's Refuge, Warren and Brenda Pfohl, had a vision to create a refuge where parents of special needs children or those struggling with a life threatening medical condition could unplug and find rest, hope and the motivation to press on in the task of caring for their children. They started David's Refuge in honor of their son, David who passed away after a thirteen year battle with Batten Disease. As parents of a child with special needs, they understood the feelings of isolation, exhaustion, and stress that families experience in their role as caregivers.

Now in 2018, David's Refuge offers services to nearly 500 parents each year. 250 two-night respite weekends are sponsored in 19 unique and exquisite Bed and Breakfast locations across New York. For a full list of our locations, visit:

<https://davidsrefuge.org/be-our-guest/weekend-respite/locations-listing/>.

On top of weekend respite, David's Refuge offers events and opportunities throughout the year that provide a community for our families to come together in a fun and judgement-free zone. On average, it costs David's Refuge \$550 to serve one couple on weekend respite. We are grateful for community partners like Landmasters for believing in our mission and supporting local families!

To learn more about David's Refuge or to donate towards our mission, please visit:

[www.davidsrefuge.org](http://www.davidsrefuge.org).



## Automatic Dosing System – How it works

The Automatic Dosing System is made up of a few simple, easy-to-assemble components and installation is quick and easy, requiring less than 15 minutes for most setups. The system is set in a location near the pond or fountain and is installed in the ground or conveniently mounted on a post, wall, or fence. The included water treatment pouch is installed in the canister, and the dosing tube is discharged into the water feature. Based on the number of gallons in the pond or fountain, the control panel is then set to the appropriate level using the + and – buttons. When the treatment pouch is exhausted, a new pouch is installed.

Read more about the system at:  
[www.pondrockshop.com/newsletters](http://www.pondrockshop.com/newsletters)



**We offer Pond Openings, Service and Maintenance for Natural & Lined Ponds** ...in the Syracuse area Landmasters can do it for you! Call 315.452.1908 press 1 to have your pond opened or serviced. We will test your water, clean your pond of any debris, jumpstart the good bacteria, install your pump and start your filter.

**Call us today so you will be at the top of our list!**

***“When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world.” ~ Harold Kushner***



## Why AquaScape, Inc.?

We are so excited to be adding AquaScape Inc. products to our shelves in the 2018 season! AquaScape Inc. has been offering high quality products in the water gardening industry for years and they have been one of the trendsetters but why after all this time have we decided to add them to our shelves? Here are just a few of the reasons why!

Well, first we want to be able to offer options for you when it comes to water features. AquaScape has a wide variety of spitters, fountains and patio ponds that can suit anyone's needs or desires to have a water feature in their yard or they can be added to your existing feature. Second, Koi Krunchies! We love the idea of giving treats to fish – they're a great way to get your Koi to hand feed! Third, a new line of landscape lighting to give you maximum enjoyment of your outdoor space.

What will this not change for us? We will continue to not add stone at the bottom of our ponds and will still recommend you do not either.

## Buy Local

By Gail Maddox

One of the messages we are hearing today is "Buy Local" which we very much support. Supporting locally owned based businesses helps to create jobs, supports families and helps contribute to our tax base. This keeps the money here in our community so that we can support other locally owned businesses and hopefully contribute to causes here that are important to us. In addition, small business employs 80% of the work force in this country.

Part of the reason we buy locally is because of the education we receive from the sales force at these businesses. Typically these small business owners have so much knowledge about their products that they can offer the correct recommendations or solutions to your needs. In addition, because you get the right product there is no need for returns and if you have issues with the product it's much easier to deal locally with warranty issues since there's no need to print off a return label, pack up the product, call or drop off for pick up and then wait for the product to be replaced or a credit showing up on your credit card. That's a lot of time and effort put forth into a wrong or defective product.

Kim and I grew up working in family businesses as both our parents were entrepreneurs so we gained business acumen and work ethic from those experiences. Our daughters, Jillian, Jennifer and Jessica all worked or work in our business. As many of our store customers know Jessica is Director of Marketing, Sales and Store Manager. Many hats have to be worn in a small business. Jillian and Jennifer now each have their own ventures so hopefully some of the things they learned growing up in our business has helped them along.

Supporting local business supports our families and community. *Thank you for being our customer... we very much appreciate your business!*

### Natural Stone & Sealers

Have you ever wondered the type of sealer that should be used on your natural stone?

Or maybe what characteristics make up the different types of natural stone?

SEK Hardscapes addressed this in their Natural Stone article available on our website:

[pondrockshop.com/newsletters](http://pondrockshop.com/newsletters)

Let us help you determine the right stone for the right project and how to protect it!



**LANDMASTERS**  
Landscape Design & Construction

### We're Hiring!

We're looking for **Construction Foreman & Construction Laborers.**

If you're interested in either of these positions, please email resumes to: [Chuck@landmasters.net](mailto:Chuck@landmasters.net) or come into our store to fill out an employment application.

We're also looking for **Part Time Store Associate.**

Send resumes to: [jessica@landmasters.net](mailto:jessica@landmasters.net) or visit our store to fill out an employment application.

The Pond & Rock Shop/  
Landmasters  
5607 Business Ave.  
Cicero, NY 13039  
Phone: 315.452.1908

*Opening Soon! – Check out our Pond & Rock Shop Website to view spring hours!*



## *Mark Your Calendars for:*

***Wednesday, April 11th at 6:00pm***  
**Pond Maintenance Seminar**

***June 24<sup>th</sup> • 1 pm-5 pm***  
***3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Landscape & Pond Tour***

Tickets on sale **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Early Bird Tickets \$20 each until May 31st.

Tickets will be \$25 beginning June 1st.

We will **donate** a portion of our proceeds to **David's Refuge** this year. We hope you can join us!



***Call us for***  
***Pond Openings, Service***  
***and Maintenance for***  
***Natural & Lined Ponds***

***Our schedule is***  
***filling up FAST!***  
***315.452.1908***